Custom Vehicle and Street Rod FAQs

1. What is the statutory definition of a custom vehicle or street rod?

In Texas Transportation Code, Sec. 504.501:

Custom Vehicle is defined as a vehicle at least 25 years old and of a model year after 1948; or manufactured to resemble a vehicle that is at least 25 years old and of a model year after 1948; and that has been altered from the manufacturer's original design or has a body constructed from materials not original to the vehicle.

Street Rod is defined as a vehicle that was manufactured before 1949; or after 1948 to resemble a vehicle manufactured before 1949; and that has been altered from the manufacturer's original design, or has a body constructed from materials not original to the vehicle.

2. Who can apply for the custom vehicle or street rod specialty license plates?

Any vehicle owner with a replica that meets the definition of a custom vehicle or street rod, and has been issued a Texas title with the brand "replica," can apply for these specialty plates.

3. I've just assembled a replica vehicle which meets the definition of a street rod (1948 and earlier). Can I apply for a title that includes the make and model year that my street rod resembles?

Yes, with the following evidence that must support the application for title:

- Ownership documents for each major component part (frame, motor and body)
- Form 130-U, Application for Texas Certificate of Title
- Form VTR-61, Rebuilt Vehicle Statement
- Verification of the serial number or VIN of each major component part (frame, motor and body). Acceptable verifications include pencil tracing or VTR-68-A.
- Certified weight certificate
- Proof of financial responsibility (if applicable)
- Three photos of your replica vehicle (front, rear and side) and one photo of the make and year model that your vehicle resembles
- 4. What is an acceptable ownership document for the major component part that contains the VIN or serial number the vehicle will be titled by (body for passenger vehicle and frame for truck)?
 - · Original or duplicate Certificate of Title
 - Manufacturers Certificate of Origin
 - Vehicle Verification or Registration Receipt and Bill of Sale if from a non-title state
 - Court Order

Tax Assessor-Collector Hearing

Note: If there is not a VIN or serial number on the component part the vehicle will be titled by, a Court Order or Tax Assessor-Collector Hearing must be obtained to establish ownership.

- 5. What is an acceptable ownership document for the major component parts that the vehicle will not be titled by?
 - Any of the documents acceptable for the major component part that contains the VIN
 or serial number the vehicle will be titled by
 - Bill of Sale
 - Invoice
 - If the frame or body were homemade by the applicant, form VTR-61, Rebuilt Vehicle Statement, that includes a detailed description of how the body or frame was constructed and includes receipts and/or invoices of the materials and various parts obtained.
- 6. I currently have a replica vehicle with a title which states that the make is "assembled" and the model year is the year it was assembled. My vehicle meets the definition of a custom vehicle. Can I apply for a corrected title that includes the make and model year that my custom vehicle resembles?

Yes, you may apply for a corrected title that will show the make and model that the vehicle resembles. To apply for a corrected title submit the following documents:

- Original Certificate of Title
- From 130-U, Application for a Texas Certificate of Title
- Three photos of your replica vehicle (front, rear and side) and one photo of the make and year model that your vehicle resembles
- Form VTR-852 completed and signed by ASE Technician.
- Proof of financial responsibility
- 7. Do I have to have my custom vehicle or street rod inspected?

Yes, if applying for Street Rod or Custom Vehicle specialty plates, an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) inspection by a master technician is required to complete and sign Form VTR-852, ASE Safety Inspection and Application for Custom Vehicle or Street Rod License Plates. The standard annual DPS Safety Inspection is required for vehicles registered with Classic license plates.

8. Why can't I just go to any of the Department of Public Safety inspection stations and have this inspection done?

This law amended Transportation Code, Sec. 548.052 to exempt vehicles with street rod or custom vehicle specialty license plates from the annual safety inspection process.

9. Can I have any ASE certified technician perform the inspection?

The safety inspection must be performed by an ASE technician with a valid certification as a Certified Master Automobile and Light Truck Technician.

10. My custom vehicle passed the ASE safety inspection 2 months ago and I just sold it, does the new owner need to get another ASE safety inspection?

Yes, any time that the title is transferred to a new owner the buyer must get a new ASE safety inspection in order to qualify for Custom Vehicle or Street Rod specialty plates.

11. Can I transfer my street rod or custom vehicle specialty plates?

No. If the vehicle is sold or traded, the buyer must have the vehicle pass the ASE safety inspection in order to apply for the Custom Vehicle or Street Rod specialty plates.

12. Can I apply for the Custom Vehicle or Street Rod specialty plates for my motorcycle?

Yes, if it meets the acceptable requirements as a replica under state law.

13. How do I find an ASE master technician that will inspect my vehicle?

Many automotive service shops have an ASE certified technician on staff. It is recommended that you call the shop in order to verify that they have an ASE technician with a valid certification as a Certified Master Automobile and Light Truck Technician and that they will perform the inspection. To locate an ASE technician, you may visit www.ase.com and enter "shop locator" in the search field.

14. My vehicle has passed the ASE safety inspection, what do I need to submit in order to get Custom Vehicle or Street Rod specialty plate?

If your vehicle meets the definition of street rod or custom vehicle and has a Texas title that is branded "replica," you need to submit the completed Form VTR-852, ASE Safety Inspection and Application for Custom Vehicle or Street Rod License Plates, to your local county tax assessor-collector's office.

If your vehicle meets the definition of street rod or custom vehicle and does <u>not</u> have a Texas title that is branded "replica," you must apply for a corrected title in order to add this brand. See question 3 or 4 for this procedure.

15. Is there a fee for the street rod or custom vehicle specialty plate?

There is no fee for the specialty plate; however, registration and local fees still apply. If you need a corrected title, then the appropriate title fees apply.

16. Can I personalize my plate?

Yes, for an additional personalization fee of \$40 per year.

17. Can I submit the photos of my vehicle and the vehicle it is supposed to resemble electronically?

No, you must submit four photos with your application for Texas title (three of the replica – front, rear and side - and one of the vehicle it resembles).

18. Do I also need an annual safety inspection from a DPS inspection station?

No, not if you are applying for Custom Vehicle or Street Rod license plates.

19. Can I use old Texas plates on my Custom Vehicle or Street Rod?

No. The new specialty license plates are intended for replica vehicles exclusively.